

Itchen Valley Parish Council

(Serving the villages of: Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy)

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at the Martyr Worthy Village Hall on
Thursday 7th June, 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present:	Abbreviation:
Mr B Loader (Chairman)	(BL)
Mrs P Flemons	(PF)
Mr P Moffatt	(PM)
Ms Y Riley	(YR)
Mrs S Robinson	(SR)
Mr A Kennedy	(AK)
Mrs S Howells	(SH)
Ms K Wells	(KW)

Also present:

District Councillor K. Gottlieb (KG)
Nine Members of the Public

In attendance:

Eddie Mason – Clerk to the Council. (EM)

12.099 Apologies: County Councillor J Porter (JP).

12.100 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed Councillor Moffatt, seconded Councillor Howells and unanimously agreed that the minutes should be accepted as a true and accurate record.

12.083 Public Participation – All of the public had come to discuss planning applications so it was decided to include Planning Matters with Public Participation:

a) Trellis Cottage - Easton

The members of the public that spoke on this were very much against the application saying that it is an intrusive overdevelopment of the site that, if allowed, will overpower the neighbouring properties and restrict their light.

The Parish Council agreed to that it will object to the application and will also report it to South Downs National Park.

District Councillor Gottlieb advised that whilst the Parish Council's planning arguments do influence planning decisions it is equally important that everyone writes on their own behalf as the more members of the public that comment the greater the influence on the planning decision.

b) New House – Itchen Abbas

Members of the Public put up many arguments opposing this application including:

That it is within the settings of Itchen House Manor a grade II listed building.

That it is encroaching onto agricultural land.

Mr Andrew Impey said that if the application is allowed it will encroach onto an SSSI site and with drainage from the site also polluting the river which is already much enriched with phosphates. He said that before any planning decision is made Hampshire Wildlife Trust will be insisting on an ecological survey to determine the impact on the SSSI site and the river.

A member of the public said that the real objection is to having such a large inappropriate building that is out of keeping with the area and will have an impact on parking.

Councillors Flemons and Loader said that they would be objecting to this application in the strongest possible terms.

District Councillor Gottlieb said that although the deadline for submitting comments on this application was close, this should not put members of the public off writing. He said that even if received after the closing date the comments will still be accepted and may influence the Planning Committee.

- c) Rectory Lane Dairy
This had already been replied to by the Planning Committee.
- d) Mr Rogers came to introduce himself to the Council saying that he had put in a planning application.

Councillor Loader said that the Council had not yet received it and invited Mr Rogers to attend the next Planning Committee Meeting.

12.101 Co-option of Parish Councillor:

Action

- a) This item was deferred until the next meeting.

12.102 Reports from County and City Councillor:

- a) County Councillor Porter did not attend the meeting and provided a written report which was presented by Councillor Mark Porter (see Appendix A).

Councillor Porter explained the position regarding the B3047 footpath project in Itchen Abbas and said that County Councillor Porter would be seeking the support of the Parish Council. The PC agreed to support the project but recognised that additional funding was needed.

The Council agreed to support the project.

- b) District Councillor Gottlieb:
 - i) Reported that since the elections everything is settling down at the District Council with the Conservatives retaking full control, and that there is both a new Leader and Mayor.
 - ii) This was a two year elections so it should provide more stability.
 - iii) Councillor Gottlieb said that he has been elected onto the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is a deputy on the Planning Committee.
 - iv) Councillor Gottlieb had been involved with the public meeting to discuss the Alresford Town Plan acting in the role of facilitator. He said that the majority of the members of public who attended the meeting had soundly rejected the plan.

It was unanimously agreed that the Alresford Town Plan be would be put on the Agenda for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting.

EM

- v) Councillor Moffat complained that refuse is not being collected from side roads, and when this is reported to Winchester City Council they refuse to believe it saying that the refuse collectors had marked the road as being done and it must therefore have been the householders that had not made their bins available.

KG

District Councillor Gottlieb said that he would investigate this.

12.103 Matters for Discussion/Decision

- a) Safer Journey to School
The improved footpath to the school which is being provided by Paddocks Development monies is on-going. . Councillor Porter to update at the next meeting
- b) Insurance:
- c) The Clerk was asked if the council had received its rebate for signing the three year agreement with Came and Co.

JP

The Clerk confirmed that the agreement had been signed but the refund had not yet been paid

- d) Clerk's Replacement:
Councillor Loader said that four applicants had been interviewed for the position of Clerk and the Council was asked to support the interview panels recommended choice of Vivienne Brookes.

It was unanimously agreed that Viv Brookes should be offered, subject to satisfactory references being received, the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, commencing her employment on the 1st July.

- e) Footpath Work on the Old Railway Line
Councillor Robinson said that quotations for work have been obtained from Jamie Sparkes and she had applied for grants to cover the cost of the work from Hampshire County Council.
- f) Road Works
County Councillor Porter had asked the Parish Council to recommend road works to put into the programme of works. Councillor Riley said that she had spoken to County Councillor Porter about the drainage issues across the B3047 between bridgents and Church lane , MW.

g) Parish Plan

Councillor Kennedy said that he had given the Parish Council's feedback to the Steering Group and that it had now agreed to publish its progress to date and its aims and objectives. Work had now started on the questionnaire.

Councillor Robinson asked if the Steering group had considered doing it in bite sized chunks.

Councillor Kennedy replied that this is a good point and one which the Steering Group had looked at.

Councillor Robinson asked for transparency by the Steering Group with at the very least the minutes being circulated. She also asked that the Steering Group consider how the Village Groups views and opinions should be integrated into its decision making process.

Councillor Flemons said that there would be lot of work for the Village Groups assisting the Steering Group with the design of the questionnaire.

Councillor Flemons said that she had received an e-mail which stated that Councillor Porter had resigned from the Village Group and inferring that Councillor Porter was opposed to the Parish Plan and asked Councillor Porter for his comments.

Councillor Porter denied the allegation saying that because of commitments on his time he had never joined as a member of the village group and that he supported the Parish Plan.

Councillor Robinson requested that the Parish Council responds to the email making the allegations against Councillor Porter

PF

Councillor Kennedy said that members of the Steering Group will be attending the Avington Fete to receive feedback from the public.

12.104 Correspondence: Most of the correspondence had been issued to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) Councillor Riley spoke about the Open Space Funding.

12.105 Planning:

- a) This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
b) The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on the 17th May 2012, having been circulated were received.

12.106 Playing Field:

- a) Everyone had received a copy of the Annual Play Equipment Inspection Report. Councillor Riley said that she would read the document and assess the areas of highest risk and priority. Councillor Riley would also obtain quotes for the immediate work needed...
b) Councillor Riley had received an e-mail from the Cricket Club expressing an interest in using the playing field as a cricket pitch

YR

Councillor Flemons said that it would take quite a lot of work to bring the playing field up to the standard that is required of a cricket pitch and in return the Council would require a guaranteed high level of commitment from the club.

- c) Councillor Riley distributed her initial research on the cost of the nest swings and it was agreed that the council support this project but that Councillor Riley and Howell continue to negotiate prices with two suppliers.
d) Councillor Kennedy asked if the Parish Council had ever considered, getting the benefits of economy of scale by joining forces with other local Councils to have a single shared contract to undertake ground maintenance work?

YR

12.107 Footpath Matters:

- a) Councillor Kennedy said that he had received a letter of complaint about the poor state of maintenance of the footpaths.

Councillor Robinson informed the Council that only four of the Valleys footpaths are the responsibility of the County Council the remainder are all the responsibility of the Parish Council.

- b) Councillor Porter said that Councillor Kennedy and he had attended a meeting with the County Council where they were told that £10,000 could be made available for Parish Council's that grouped together to employ a links man to undertake maintenance work on behalf of the Parishes in the group. Councillor Kennedy said that this is worth investigating as there is a strong view locally that we need to spend more money on footpath maintenance.

Council Porter said that he would approach the adjacent villages to see if they are interested in joining us in the scheme. MP

12.108 Road, Highway & Street Light Matters:

- a) Councillor Porter said that the Lit Signs project is proceeding and that that County Councillor Porter has obtained a £900.00 grant from Hampshire County Council. MP

12.109 Representatives to the Village Hall Committees: Nothing

12.110 King George V Memorial Playing Field Trust: See Playing fields

12.111 The McPherson Field, Easton: Councillor Riley asked that Councillor Flemon give her the details of the Trust so she could make contact in her new role as Open Spaces Portfolio lead.

12.112 Public Transport Representative:

- a) Councillor Porter reported that the new bus service has started.

12.113 Winchester Villages Trust: Nothing to report.

12.114 Web Master: Councillor Riley reported that the website details would be handed over to her on the 8th June.

12.115 Finance

- a) It was unanimously agreed that the Council should pay its bills

Cheque List June 2012

Transaction	Cheque No	Creditors Name	Payment For	Nett	VAT	Gross
291	002037	HM Customs and Inland	Clerk Tax	52.80	0.00	52.80
288	002038	Eddie Mason	Clerks Expenses (Mileage)	26.26	0.00	26.26
289	002038	Eddie Mason	Clerks Expenses	25.00	0.00	25.00
290	002038	Eddie Mason	Clerks Salary	211.13	0.00	211.13
292	002039	N W Adams	Annual Play Equipment Inspection	163.50	32.70	196.20
293	002040	Martyr Worthy Parish Hall	Hire of Halls	12.00	0.00	12.00
294	002041	Southern Electric Contracting	Street Lighting	215.10	43.02	258.12
295	002042	Southern Electric	Recreation Ground Changing	44.32	2.22	46.54
296	002043	Murray J (Internal Auditor)	Internal Audit	160.00	0.00	160.00
299	022044	Avington Midsummer Fete	Grants	100.00	0.00	100.00
Totals Paid				1010.11	77.94	1088.05

- b) Statement of Accounts:
Proposed Councillor Loader, seconded Councillor Moffatt and unanimously agreed that the Accounts for 2011/12 be approved and signed.
- c) Annual Governance Statement
Proposed Councillor Loader, seconded Councillor Moffatt and unanimously agreed that the Statement of Assurance for 2011/12 be approved and signed.
- d) Cheque Signatories:
Councillors Kennedy and Robinson were added to the list of cheque signatories and the Clerk was asked to provide them with the necessary forms.
- e) Councillor Kennedy said that he would be preparing budgets and looking at the Parish's Financial Regulation.

12.116 Date of the Next Meetings – The next meetings will be on Thursday 5th July 2012 in the Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall.

There being no additional business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.